



Fire Management Plan Cultural Resource Management

What are Cultural Resources?

- Archeological Resources
- Cultural Landscapes
- Historic Structures
- Museum Objects
- Ethnographic Resources



The Grand Canyon is of cultural importance to the Hualapai, Havasupai, Hopi, Kaibab Paiute, Navajo, San Juan Southern Paiute, Shivwits Paiute, White Mountain Apache, and Zuni Indian peoples.

Fire Management Activities Can Aid in the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Resources

- Mechanical thinning reduces fuel around prehistoric and historic structures.
- Low intensity fires and mechanical thinning can safely reduce fuel loads on archeological sites.
- Fire management tools and techniques can be used to restore and maintain cultural landscapes.
- Fires can help maintain ecosystem processes in Native American traditional use areas.



"As custodian of the national park system, the NPS is steward of many of America's most important natural and cultural resources. It is charged to preserve them unimpaired for the enjoyment of present and future generations. If they are degraded or lost, so is the parks' reason for being."

NPS Director's Order 28



Threats to Cultural Resources from Wildland Fire

- Destruction of wooden buildings or features.
- Damage to rock art from contact with high heat.
- Damage to stone structures and features from contact with high heat.
- Destruction of fragile artifacts.



Threats to Cultural Resources from Fire Management Activities

- Unintentional disturbance of archeological resources by firelines, camps, helispots, etc.
- Unintentional disturbance of American Indian sacred places and traditional use areas.
- Intentional vandalism of sites and theft of artifacts.



Ongoing Management of Cultural Resources for Fire Management Activities

- Archeological site inventory and documentation prior to prescribed fires.
- Post-fire assessments of sensitive sites and treatment of sites impacted by fire.
- Fuel reduction around historic structures.
- Protection of fire-sensitive sites.
- Archeologist assigned to wildland fires.
- Consultation (tribal & state).

